

REMARKS

Claims 66-70, 74, 78-80, 84-88, 93, 97-101 and 105-150 are pending. In the office action dated December 24, 2003, the Examiner withdrew prior objections to the specification and claims. In addition, the Examiner indicated that claims 66-70, 74, 78-80, 84-87, 93, 97-100, 105-108, and 110-150 were allowable. The Examiner, however, rejected claims 88, 101, and 109. Applicants have herein amended claims 88, 101, and 109. Support for the amendment may be found at page 25 of the specification. No new matter has been added.

In light of the amendments and the remarks herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of remaining claims 88, 101, and 109.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 88, 101, and 109 as confusing, since, in his opinion, "it was not clear how the term 'analog thereof' was defined." Applicants have herein amended claims 88, 101, and 109 to recite "a phorbol ester." Support for the amendment may be found at page 25, wherein it is noted that the "method involves contacting the cell with 1 to 3 nM of phorbol myristate acetate (PMA) or another phorbol ester." Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are no longer confusing, as phorbol esters are a defined class of chemicals. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 88, 101, and 109.

Applicant : Paul Negulescu et al.
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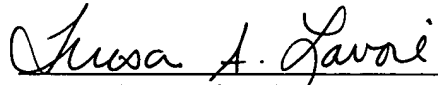
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the remaining claims 88, 101, and 109 are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. Upon allowance of claims 88, 101, and 109, all pending claims will be allowed. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if such would expedite the prosecution.

Enclosed a \$420.00 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee (two months).
Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5/24/04


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